Overall, the Vision Document stresses on the development of agriculture and allied sectors, strengthening of physical infrastructure and participatory development and inclusive governance.

(c) The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region has constituted 16 Thematic Working Groups comprising of line Ministries, State Governments of the region and sectoral experts. These Thematic Working Groups have prepared plans of action based on the Vision Document to achieve its objectives. The Plans of action were presented to the public representatives, Governments, Press and civil society groups of the North-East in the office of North-East Council in Shillong, 3-4 December 2008.

Action against polluting industries

1115. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to levy tax on polluting industries in view of encouraging to scale down of carbon emission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also constitute any statutory body to measure and analyze the carbon footprint of polluting industries and take strong action against industrial units which cause huge carbonization ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal by the Government to levy tax on polluting industries in view of encouraging to scale down of carbon emission.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to constitute a statutory body to measure and analyze the carbon footprint of polluting industries. India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include *inter-alia* setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms, use of cleaner and lesser carbon-intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging Mass Rapid transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors.

E-waste management

1116. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that electronic devices such as computers servers, mainframes monitors, TV and telecommunication devices are dumped by most users once they go out of fashion;

(b) if so, the policies that have been framed by Government to manage e-waste in the country;

(c) whether Government would make generator of e-waste liable and also put some liability on electronic industry to manage this kind of waste; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) E-waste contains hazardous waste and these Rules already provide for regulation of generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal of such hazardous wastes through the process of authorization from the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in the UTs. The Ministry has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2008, repealing the earliar rules and a provision has been made for the first time in the new Rules for registration of recycler/reprocessor of the Components of waste electrical and electronic assemblies with the Central Pollution Control Board for ensuring environmentally sound management of such e-waste.

A task force had also been constituted by the Ministry to finalize the guidelines for environmentally sound management of e-waste. The task force has since submitted its report and the guidelines are now available on the website of the Ministry (www.envfor.nic.in) as well as on the CPCB's website (www.cpcb.nic.in). the guidelines provide guidance for identification of various sources of waste electrical and electronic equipment, It is intended to encourage the recycling of e-waste for the present, instead of making the generator liable to manage e-waste.

Air pollution

1117. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether world class air pollution measuring mechanism capable of monitoring even the tiniest harmful particle in the air, are being installed in Delhi; and

(b) if so, in what manner the basic pollution level already known is going to be effectively controlled as smallest toxic particle (*i.e.* one-seventh of the size of human hair) are breaching the deepest parts of the lungs and are more harmful than any other known particulate matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ambient air quality in Delhi is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) alongwith the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). The CPCB has started monitoring finer dust particles, less than 2.5 micron size ($PM_{2.5}$), at 07 locations in Delhi.